GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1445
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2003
IMPORT OF GAS BY PETRONET
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of officials from Qatar visited India to discuss the import of gas by Petronet Ltd. a joint venture of Indian Oil Companies;

(b) if so, whether in view of the huge finding of gas from within the country, India`s dependence on imports has been reduced;

(c) if so, the quantity of gas being imported by India from Qatar and other countries; and

(d) the cost at which the gas is being imported and the foreign exchange spent on such imports during the last one year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As against the current allocation of 120 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) of natural gas, the curren supply is about 65 MMSCMD. As per the Hydrocarbon Vision 2025 the demand of natural gas would go upto 231 MMSCMD in 2006-07. The recent discovery of gas by a consortium led by M/s Reliance Industries Ltd. will be of the order of around 25-35 MMSCMD. Despite the discovery of natural gas there would still be large gap between demand and supply of natural gas. To bridge this gap, one of the options is to import Liquified Natural Gas (LNG).

(c)&(d) Petronet LNG Limited (PLL), a joint venture company promoted by four Public Sector Oil Companies viz. GAIL (India) Limite (GAIL), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Indian Oil Corporati Limited (IOCL) has signed an agreement with RagGas of Qatar for import of 7.5 Million Tonnes of LNG, 5 MMTPA for Dahej and 2.5 for Kochi Terminal. PLL is currently setting up 5 MMTPA LNG Terminal at Dahej, GujaratMechanical completion of the project is expected in December, 2003. The import of LNG has not started as yet, therefore, question of incurring an expenditure on import of LNG does not arise.